

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the time and consideration that the Examiner has provided in reviewing this application. By the above amendment, claims 2, 5, 9, 25, 27 and 28 have been amended and claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 19-24 and 26 have been canceled.

In the Office action dated November 12, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Savoie reference. The examiner also rejected claims 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ulloa and claims 23, 24 and 26 as being anticipated by Obayashi. The examiner also allowed claims 11-18 and indicated that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 25, 27 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the applicants have canceled claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, 19-24 and 26, without prejudice to re-asserting these claims in a continuation application. Also, claims 2, 5, 9, 25, 27 and 28 have been amended to place these claims (and those depending from them) in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applications respectfully request that a notice of allowance be issued for pending claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11-18, 25, 27 and 28.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, and in view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application and the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request favorable consideration and the timely allowance of all pending claims. If, for any reason, the application and claims are not in condition for allowance, or any additional information is required, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (312) 701-8738. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees (or credit any overpayment) associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 13-0019. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for herein, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Douglas M. Eveleigh
Reg. No. 43,426

MAYER, BROWN, ROWE & MAW LLP
P.O. Box 2828
Chicago, IL 60690-2828
(312) 701-8738
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